

than the spikelet and the florets are usually crowded. In a former number of the GAZETTE (vol. ix. p. 169) it was stated that this grass constituted a good genus by itself distinct from *Colpodium* and *Fluminia* and still farther removed from *Grapphephorum melicoides*. Its true relationship is somewhat obscure, but there can be no hesitation in placing it with the *Festuceæ*. As to *Grapphephorum melicoides* and *Wolfii*, their affinities are with the *Aveneæ*. The former was first published under *Aira* and the latter under *Trisetum*.¹ They differ from *Trisetum* only in the less pointed lobes of the flowering glumes and in the shorter awns. *Grapphephorum melicoides*, usually described as awnless, is sometimes short awned like *G. Wolfii*. So closely allied are these two species, that slender forms of the latter might easily be mistaken for the former. That this mistake has occurred is evident from the fact that Utah and Wyoming are given in the range of *G. melicoides*, where only *G. Wolfii* has, as yet, been found.

On page 403 *Panicum amarum* Ell. is described. It is exceedingly doubtful if this plant has ever been found in the interior.

Setaria setosa, var. *caudata* Vasey, should read *S. setosa*, var. *caudata* Griseb. (See Griseb. Flor. Br. W. Ind. p. 555.)

Andropogon furcatus Muhl. has an older synonym, *A. provincialis* Lam. (See Scribner, in Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. ix. p. 116.) *A. Hallii* Hackl. Sitzb. der k. Akad. d. Wissensch, Band lxxxix. p. 127) is not an infrequent species in the Rocky Mt. region from Arizona to Montana. It is No. 651 Hall & Harbour.

Muhlenbergia sylvatica, var. *setiglumis* Watson (p. 409) is *M. ambigua*, Torr. in Niccolet's Rept. p. 164.

Vilfa cuspidata Torr. and *depauperata* Torr. were first placed in *Sporobolus* by Scribner. (See Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, ix. No. 8.)

Aira flexuosa Linn. is *Deschampsia flexuosa* Griseb. (Spic. ii. p. 457), and not of Beauvois.

In placing *Aira latifolia* Hook. in *Deschampsia*, a new specific name must be given, as *latifolia* is already taken. It should be called *D. Hookeriana*.

Munro never named any *Poa*, *P. Californica*. He did have a *Sclerochloa Californica*, which is abundantly distinct from the *Poa Andina* of Nuttall.

Buckley should be quoted as the author of *Poa tenuifolia* (see Proc. Acad. Phila., 1862).

Poa arctica (on page 422) is *P. leptocoma* Trin. *Poa arctica* Br. is *P. cnesia* All.

Bromus breviaristatus should be given to Buckley, who published the species under that name in 1862, twelve years before Thurber's publication.—

F. LAMSON SCRIBNER.

EDITORIAL.

THE CUSTOM, which happily is now quite general among botanical writers, at least in America, of distributing separate copies or "extras" of articles published in periodicals, reports of societies, etc., is one especially to be commended. It is mutually helpful to the author and the recipient, and places the publications directly in the hands of those who can make the best use of them, irrespective of the circulation of the medium through which first issued. It is evidently desirable that the excerpt should furnish the possessor with all the data necessary to make a proper citation from it, the same as if the volume in which it was first published were consulted. For this reason it is essential that the original paging should not be changed, and that it should bear the name

¹ Bot. Gaz., ix. 168.

of the publication from which it is taken, together with the number of the volume and the date. These items are not infrequently overlooked, and the excerpt is accordingly shorn of an important part of its usefulness. But it often happens that the author in his distribution does not send a copy to some one who is interested in the subject, and who for various reasons would be glad to possess one. In this country almost the only course open to him is to apply directly to the author for it. In Germany he would usually have no difficulty in purchasing a copy for a small sum of some one of the numerous second-hand bookstores. We on this side of the Atlantic may now and then buy "extras" from the dealers in Berlin and Leipzig of the writings of Dr. Gray, Dr. Farlow, and other American authors, but we must pay for the journey they have taken. An American dealer having the confidence of both the authors and the purchasing public, who would take pains to gather up such papers as we have been speaking of, and offer them at reasonable rates by means of classified lists, would merit the gratitude of scientists, and we do not doubt would meet with pecuniary success. Then the modest author would feel certain that a demand indicated a real interest in his writings, and the modest purchaser, who lacked the temerity to solicit the article from the writer of it, could still supply his needs.

OPEN LETTERS.

Nasturtium lacustre Gray.

The upper leaves of *Nasturtium lacustre* detach themselves when fully matured and emit roots and a stem from the lower extremity. I have seen quantities of such young leaf-plants floating in deep rivers. I do not find this fact recorded.

L. H. BAILEY, JR.

Agricultural College, Mich.

A double Orange.

My attention has been lately called to an interesting variety of orange which has been for sale in this market, said to have come from California. The fruit is about the size of a medium orange, with a slight swelling at the upper end. Dissection reveals a small orange almost completely enclosed in the skin of the large one. The core runs from the stem to about the center of the fruit, and is of about normal size. Then it expands, and for half of the remaining distance is more than twice its previous size. At this point is situated the small orange. This is composed of from seven to eight segments arranged as in the main orange. No seeds are found in the fruit, and it is sweet and juicy. This duplication of fruits was observed not in one orange alone, but in a whole box, and perhaps exists in more. At the upper or flower end of the fruit the skin does not wholly inclose the pulp, but exposes the segments of the smaller orange.

JOS. F. JAMES.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Arrangement of Herbarium.

I take out and put back the sheets of my grasses many times in the course of a month. My own collection of genera is arranged alphabetically; that of the college herbarium according to Bentham and Hooker's *Genera Plantarum*. The alphabetical list is much the handiest to use. I shall soon arrange the species of grasses in each genus alphabetically. I shall be glad to hear the views of others on this subject, especially of those who have tried both ways.

Agricultural College, Mich.

W. J. BEAL.